

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for placing a vascular implant (10) comprising:

- a vessel dilation device (1) with an outer envelope (2) and a tapered end piece for introduction into a vessel, whereby said end piece consists of a nose (14) formed at the distal extremity of the outer envelope (2) and the dilation device (1) comprises means for opening the nose (14), consisting of at least two longitudinal slots (16a, 16b, 16c, 16d) which divide the nose (14) into several segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d) which can be opened out in order to open the nose (14);

- an implant (10) which is placed in the outer envelope (2), wherein the implant (10) includes a first auto-expandable element (24) which expands in a radial direction and is maintained by the internal wall of the outer envelope (2), a second, hollow auto-expandable element (25) which expands in a radial direction ~~and~~, a hollow intermediate section (26) between the first and second auto-expandable elements that is deformable by twisting, and the first auto-expandable element (24) is positioned in the outer envelope at a location closer to the nose (14) in the distal direction than the second auto-expandable element (25);

- a means for translation of said implant (10) in relation to the outer envelope (2) such that the first auto-expandable element (24) is maintained by the internal wall of the outer envelope (2), and upon movement of said implant (10) distally out of the nose (14), the auto-expandable element (24) presses against the internal wall nose (14) to open out the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d);

- the means of translation including an inner sheath (3) ~~mounted so as to slide in~~ having an internal wall for maintaining a portion of the implant (10), the inner sheath (3) being able to slide along the internal wall of the outer envelope (2) and being able to push the edge of at the rear end of the first auto-expandable element (24) the portion of the implant (10) maintained by the internal wall of the inner sheath (3) so that the implant (10) moves in a distal direction toward the nose (14);

- the second auto-expandable element (25) ~~[[is]]~~ being configured to be maintained by the internal wall of the inner sheath (3) such that the portion of the implant (10) maintained by the internal wall of the inner sheath (3) includes the second auto-expandable element (25); and

- a plunger (4) having a distal end, the plunger (4) being positioned so that the implant (10) is between the distal end of the plunger (4) and the nose (14), the plunger (4) being mounted in such a way as to slide be slidable in the inner sheath

(3) and ~~can~~ so that the distal end is able to press against the second expandable element (25) to release the portion of the implant (10) maintained by the internal wall of the inner sheath ~~(3) at the end furthest from the intermediate section~~ at the end furthest from the intermediate section.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- a grip (6) that is an integral part of the outer envelope (2).

5. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 4, further comprising:

- a grip (7) that is an integral part of the inner sheath (3), wherein movement of the grip (7) causes the inner sheath (3) to slide within the outer envelope (2).

6. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 5 in characterised in that:

- the grip (7) on the inner sheath is located behind the grip (6) on the outer envelope (2) and includes a removable spacer (8) situated between said grips (6, 7) to maintain the space between said grips.

7. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1 characterised in that:

- the segments that can be deployed (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d) are joined as required along the slots (16a, 16b, 16c, 16d) when the nose (14) is closed.

8. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 7 characterised in that:

- the nose (14) includes a temporary connector (17) by slot (16a, 16b, 16c, 16d) between the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d).

9. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1 characterised in that:

- the nose (14) includes a central residual passage (18).

10. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1 characterised in that:

- the nose (14) includes a shape memory so that the nose (14) is closed as a default position when the means of opening are inactive.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- a grip (12) that is an integral part of the plunger (4) located behind the grip (7) that is an integral part of the inner sheath (3), wherein movement of the grip (7) causes the inner sheath (3) to slide within the outer envelope (2), and it also includes a removable spacer (9) placed between said grips (7, 12) to maintain them apart.

13. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- means of adjusting (19, 20) the angle of the inner sheath (3).

14. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- a central channel (27) along the line of the outer envelope (2) to allow a guide wire to be passed through.

15. (previously presented) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- a grip (6) that is an integral part of the outer envelope (2).

16. (currently amended) The system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

- a grip (7) that is an integral part of the inner sheath (3), wherein movement of the grip (7) causes the inner sheath (3) to slide within the outer envelope (2).

17. (currently amended) A system for placing a vascular implant (10) comprising:

- a vessel dilation device (1) having an outer envelope (2) with a distal extremity having a tapered end consisting of a nose (14) for introduction into a vessel,

- the nose (14) consisting of at least two longitudinal slots (16a, 16b, 16c, 16d) dividing the nose (14) into several segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d), the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d) having freedom of movement so as to provide a way for opening the nose (14);

- an implant (10) being positioned in the outer envelope (2), the implant (10) including an auto-expandable element (24), the auto-expandable element (24) having front end closest to the nose (14) of the outer envelope (2) and a rear end furthest from the nose (14) of the outer envelope (2);

- the auto-expandable element ~~(24)~~being (24) being expandable in a radial direction and maintained by the internal wall of the outer envelope (2); and

- a means for translation of said implant (10) in relation to the outer envelope (2), the means for translation comprising an inner sheath (3) having an internal wall for maintaining the rear end of the auto expandable element (24), the inner sheath(3) which is mounted in being slidable within the outer envelope (2) so as to slide within the outer envelope (2) and being able to push the rear end of the auto-expandable element (24) so that the front end of the auto-expandable element (24) moves along the internal wall of the outer envelope (2) in a distal direction towards the nose (14), wherein

~~upon contact with~~ sufficient movement in the distal direction causes the front end of the auto-exapandable element (24) to press against and open out the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d) with freedom of movement and as so that the implant (10) is moved able to move distally out of the nose (14), ~~the auto-expandable element (24) presses against to open out the segments (15a, 15b, 15c, 15d).~~